**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (previously presented) A casting system including a refractory metal core, said refractory metal core having means for providing oxidation resistance during shell fire and protection against reaction/dissolution during casting, said oxidation resistance and protection means being a coating consisting of aluminum silicate.

2 - 3. (cancelled).

4. (previously presented) A casting system including a refractory metal core, said refractory metal core having means for providing oxidation resistance during shell fire and protection against reaction/dissolution during casting, said oxidation resistance and protection means being a coating consisting of zirconium silicate.

5. (cancelled).

6. (previously presented) A casting system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said core is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of tantalum, niobium, tungsten, alloys thereof, and intermetallic compounds thereof.

7. (previously presented) A casting system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said core is formed from molybdenum.

8. (currently amended) A casting system including a refractory metal core, said refractory metal core having means for providing

oxidation resistance during shell fire and protection against reaction dissolution during casting, said oxidation resistance and protection means being a coating consisting of an oxide selected from the group consisting of calcia, and magnesia~~, and chromia~~.

9 - 10. (cancelled).

11. (previously presented) A casting system including a refractory metal core, said refractory metal core having means for providing oxidation resistance during shell fire and protection against reaction/dissolution during casting, said oxidation resistance and protection means comprising a coating contacting said refractory metal core, said coating comprising a nitride selected from the group consisting of silicon nitride, sialon, and mixtures thereof.

12. (previously presented) A casting system including a refractory metal core, said refractory metal core having means for providing oxidation resistance during shell fire and protection against reaction/dissolution during casting, said oxidation resistance and protection means comprising a coating adjacent said core, said coating comprising a carbide selected from the group consisting of silicon carbide, titanium carbide, and mixtures thereof.

13. (cancelled).

14. (previously presented) A casting system including a refractory metal core, said refractory metal core having means for providing oxidation resistance during shell fire and protection against reaction/dissolution during casting, said oxidation resistance and protection means comprising a coating, said coating comprising a ceramic coating and a layer between the refractory metal forming the

refractory metal core and said ceramic coating, wherein said layer abuts said refractory metal and consists of a metal selected from the group consisting of nickel, platinum, chromium, silicon, and alloys thereof.

15. (previously presented) A casting system including a refractory metal core, said refractory metal core having means for providing oxidation resistance during shell fire and protection against reaction/dissolution during casting, said oxidation resistance and protection means comprising a coating, said coating comprising a ceramic coating and a layer between the refractory metal forming the refractory metal core and said ceramic coating, wherein said layer abuts said refractory metal and is formed from NiAl.

16. (previously presented) A casting system including a refractory metal core, said refractory metal core having means for providing oxidation resistance during shell fire and protection against reaction/dissolution during casting, said oxidation resistance and protection means comprising a coating, said coating comprising a ceramic coating and a layer between the refractory metal forming the refractory metal core and said ceramic coating, wherein said layer is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of TiC, and $Si_3N_4$.

17. (previously presented) A casting system in accordance with claim 14, wherein said ceramic coating comprises an oxide material.

18 - 23. (cancelled).

24. (previously presented) A casting system including a refractory metal core, said refractory metal core having means for providing

oxidation resistance during shell fire and protection against reaction/dissolution during casting, said refractory metal core being formed from molybdenum and having an etched surface and said oxidation resistance and protection providing means overlaying said etched surface and comprising a coating, said coating consisting of alternating layers of alumina and a material selected from the group consisting of TiCN and zirconia.

25. (cancelled).